

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-75. (Canceled)

76. (Previously presented) A water-in-oil-in-water emulsion (E) comprising a liquid or meltable hydrophobic phase (O) comprising at least one hydrophobic active material (A),

wherein said emulsion (E) is in the form of a multiple emulsion (Em) comprising:

i) an aqueous or water-miscible outer phase (We), having dispersed therein an inner emulsion (Ei) and at least one dispersant and/or stabilizer (De),

wherein inner emulsion (Ei) comprises:

a continuous liquid or meltable hydrophobic phase (O),

an aqueous dispersed phase (Wi), and,

at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible stabilizer (Di) at the interface of the two phases (O) and (Wi); or

ii) an aqueous or water-miscible outer phase (We) having dispersed therein a solid (Es) that is water-dispersible as the multiple emulsion (Em),

wherein (Es) comprises:

- the inverse emulsion (Ei) dispersed in a water-soluble or water-dispersible solid matrix (M), and

- the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De),

further wherein (De) is located at the interface of the inverse emulsion (Ei) and the matrix (M) and is optionally dispersed in the matrix (M), and

- the stabilizer (Di) at the interface of the two phases of the inner inverse emulsion (Ei),

further wherein (Di) comprises:

a water-soluble or water-dispersible polysaccharide (PSA) having:

a mean degree of polymerization (DP) that is at least 1.5, and

a Brookfield viscosity, at 25°C as a solution at 1% by mass in water of less than 20,000 mPa.s, and

further wherein said polysaccharides (PSA) is free of lipophilic polyorganosiloxane substituent groups.

77. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the hydrophobic phase (O) comprises at least one organic or organosilicon material or a mixture of at least one organic material and at least one organosilicon material,

wherein said organic material and said organosilicon material are liquid or meltable and insoluble in an aqueous phase.

78. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the active material (A) comprises:

at least one organic, organosilicon, or inorganic material, or mixtures thereof,

wherein said at least one material or mixture is insoluble in an aqueous phase, and

further wherein said organic or organosilicon materials are liquid or meltable, and said inorganic material is solid or liquid.

79. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein said hydrophobic phase (O) and/or said active material (A) comprises an oil, a wax, or a resin comprising a linear, cyclic, branched, or crosslinked polyorganosiloxane.

80. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 79, wherein said polyorganosiloxane comprises a nonionic or amino polyorganosiloxane.

81. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 86, wherein said polysaccharide (PSA) or its skeleton comprises a linear or branched, nonionic or ionic homopolysaccharide or heteropolysaccharide, having identical or different glycosyl units linked via $\beta(1-4)$ bonds, optionally $\beta(1-3)$ and/or $\beta(1-6)$ bonds.

82. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 81, wherein the hydroxyl functions of the glycosyl units are substituted and/or modified with nonionic or ionic groups other than lipophilic polyorganosiloxane groups.

83. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 81, wherein said polysaccharide (PSA) comprises:
- depolymerized galactomannans, optionally modified or substituted with nonionic groups;

- cellulose monoacetates having a degree of substitution ranging from 0.3 to less than 1.2,
- hydroxypropylcelluloses having a degree of modification ranging from about 0.2 to about 1.5,
- carboxymethylcelluloses having a degree of substitution ranging from 0.05 to 1.2;

- dextrins, optionally comprising:
hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, or quaternized aminoalkyl groups; xyloglycans;
arabinoxylans; alkylpolyglycosides; or mixtures thereof; or
- mixtures thereof.

84. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the mass ratio of the dispersed aqueous phase (Wi) to the hydrophobic phase (O) ranges from 5/95 to 95/5.

85. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the ratio of the mass of stabilizer (Di) to the mass of hydrophobic phase (O) ranges from 0.1/100 to 500/100.

86. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein said dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) comprises a hydrophilic surfactant, a hydrophilic polymer, or a hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer.

87. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 86, wherein said dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) comprises:

- (a) at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant;
- (b) at least one anionic hydrophilic surfactant;
- (c) at least one cationic hydrophilic surfactant;
- (d) at least one nonionic hydrophilic polymer;
- (e) at least one nonionic hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer;
- (f) at least one anionic hydrophilic polymer;

(g) at least one anionic hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer;
(h) at least one cationic hydrophilic polymer;
(i) at least one cationic hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer; or
(j) a mixture of at least two of said surfactants and/or polymers (a) to (d) above, which are compatible.

88. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 86, wherein the amount of (De) present in the outer phase (We) ranges from 0.01% to 50% by weight relative to the inverse emulsion (Ei).

89. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 86, wherein said hydrophilic polymer (De) comprises at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polysaccharide (PSA) (Di).

90. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the mass ratio the inner inverse emulsion (Ei) to the outer phase (We) comprising the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) ranges from 50/50 to 99/1.

91. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the mass ratio, expressed as solids, of dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) to the inner inverse emulsion (Ei) ranges from 0.01/100 to 50/100.

92. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the concentration of the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) in the outer phase (We) ranges from 1% to 50%.

93. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the outer phase (We) is an aqueous phase.

94. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the outer phase (We) is an alcoholic or aqueous-alcoholic phase, optionally comprising isopropanol, ethanol, or mixtures thereof.

95. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the active material (A) in or comprising hydrophobic phase (O) comprises a care or detergence agent for articles comprising textile fibers, and the outer phase (We) is an aqueous liquid detergent formulation comprising the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) comprises a mixture of at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant and at least one anionic hydrophilic surfactant, optionally combined with at least one nonionic hydrophilic or amphiphilic polymer.

96. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the active material (A) in or comprising the hydrophobic phase (O) is a care or detergence agent for articles comprising textile fibers, and the outer phase (We) comprises a water-miscible alcoholic or aqueous-alcoholic liquid detergent formulation, comprising the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) comprises a mixture of at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant and at least one anionic hydrophilic surfactant, optionally combined with at least one nonionic hydrophilic or amphiphilic polymer.

97. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein the active material (A) in or comprising the hydrophobic phase (O) comprises a care agent for articles comprising textile fibers, and the outer phase (We) comprises an aqueous liquid rinsing formulation, comprising the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) comprises at least one cationic hydrophilic surfactant and/or from at least one cationic hydrophilic or amphiphilic polymer, optionally mixed with at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant and/or at least one nonionic hydrophilic or amphiphilic polymer.

98. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 76, wherein said emulsion is in the solid (Es) form and the solid matrix (M) comprises:

- polyethylene glycols with a molecular mass ranging from 2,000 to 100,000 g/mol;
- copolymers of ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or anhydride and copolymers of ethylenically unsaturated nonionic monomers;
- water-soluble or water-dispersible polypeptides of natural or synthetic origin;
- polyelectrolytes in acid form, belonging to the family of weak polyacids, having a molecular mass of less than 20,000 g/mol;
- polyvinylpyrrolidones having a molecular mass of less than 20,000 g/mol;
- polyvinyl alcohols with a molecular mass of less than 100,000 g/mol, optionally having a degree of deacetylation ranging from 80 mol% to 99 mol%,
 - water-soluble or water-dispersible film-forming amphotolytic polymers,
 - water-soluble or water-dispersible saccharides, osides or polyholosides,
 - water-soluble or water-dispersible amino acids or amino acid salts,

- citric acid,
- fatty acids,
- urea,
- surfactants having a water-surfactant binary phase diagram comprising an isotropic phase that is fluid at 25°C up to a concentration of at least 50% by weight of surfactant, followed by a rigid liquid crystal phase of hexagonal or cubic type at higher concentrations, which is stable at least up to 60°C,
 - water-soluble or water-dispersible alkali metal salts,
 - alkali metal salts of saturated or unsaturated fatty acids, or
 - mixtures of sodium acetate and citric acid.